

Stony Creek Unit Remains on Guard

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DAUPHIN — Although relatively subdued in recent months, the Stony Creek Valley Coalition reports in its June news bulletin to members that it has not been sedated by the designation of Stony Creek as a "wild and scenic river" by the State Legislature.

Editor and co-chairperson Janet Evans of Hummelstown RD 4 tells members: "The Coalition still views itself as an active advocate for Stony's preservation and is not yet convinced that Stony does not need a guardian."

The Coalition was formed several years ago after it became known that Pennsylvania Power and Light Co. planned to construct two dams in the valley to generate power by the pumped storage and gravity technique during periods of peak electric power consumption.

With wide public support by conservation groups, the Coalition's "Save Stony Valley" slogan blanketed the region on bumper stickers, bus cards and T-shirts.

The utility continues to own acreage in this relative wilderness

area which was acquired in a trade with the state Game Commission, although the power project did not go forward as originally anticipated.

The position statement from the Coalition comes, Evans indicated, as a result of the apparently continuing stand of PP&L, as stated in a brief to the state Public Utility Commission, that "we have not cancelled the project per se. That is, it is still our desire that, while we would not obstruct the declaring of that land as a wild and scenic river, that if at some time in the future it should be possible to license that project or practical to construct it, we would still like to have it available as an option for future energy supplies for our customers."

Because of this, Evans said, "Although Stony Creek's status as Pennsylvania's first 'wild river' gives Stony the recognition it deserves, the Coalition will continue to press for the protection such a wilderness area deserves."

As a result, she said, "We will continue with our efforts until the acreage reverts to the Game Commission."